LEAP Pronunciation Improvement Overview

*LEAP Pronunciation Improvement* is a unique course that helps non-native speakers of English improve their listening and speaking so that they can understand and communicate with North American English speakers more easily. This non-credit, pass/fail course meets twice weekly over a six-week period and is offered twice each semester. The cost of the course is $412.50 plus the cost of the textbook. This works out to about $20/hr. of instructional time.

The course is open to anyone in the community and it can be taken more than once. Although several key concepts are covered each session, other topics are varied from session to session, so each time students will be exposed to new material while they deepen their understanding and mastery of earlier concepts.

*Pronunciation Improvement* students are offered varied activities and opportunities to learn and practice the course material. The course is structured as follows:

- Two 100-minute classes meet per week on the Wright State University campus in a state-of-the-art computer lab.

- Students are given access to digital class and personal notebooks where they can access pronunciation resources, upload recordings of their own speaking, and receive out-of-class help and feedback from the instructor, and collaborate with other students.

- Each class period is filled with highly interactive pronunciation instruction and practice time.

- Class participation is the primary requirement to pass the course. Homework is minimal and consists of two basic sets of learning opportunities: a set of audio tracks to use for listening discrimination and speaking practice and a weekly recording to be uploaded by the student to get additional personalized feedback from the instructor and to develop the ability to monitor his or her own pronunciation.

- The course ends with Presentation Night. Each student prepares a reading or a script on a subject of his or her choice and applies the pronunciation skills and concepts learned in the course. This reading or script is read aloud to the class in a low-stress situation. Visual aids can be used, but are not required.

While it is not realistic to expect to achieve complete mastery of North American English pronunciation in a six-week period, most students have reported significant improvement in their ability to understand and be understood by North American English speakers within just a few weeks.